

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JEREMY HISSONG'S EFFORTS TO SUPPORT HOMELESS STUDENTS

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an inspiring effort to support homeless students in Rockford, Illinois. Under the leadership of Jeremy Hissong, friends and neighbors of the Rockford School District banded together to collect clothes and school supplies to benefit the District's homeless student program.

After learning of the over 1,200 homeless children in the Rockford Public School District, Mr. Hissong utilized social media and the internet to organize "Kids Need Us" to gather support for a supply drive. His employer, Mondelez International, provided space in its parking lot for volunteers to collect needed supplies from the community such as socks, pants, coats, hats, pens, and paper to be donated to the homeless student program.

I applaud Mr. Hissong, and the community, for their success in bringing people together, gathering needed items, and educating the public about the awful reality of youth homelessness in our communities. This story of action is an important reminder of the victims of a slow economy and the importance of taking action in order to help those most in need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deep appreciation for Jeremy Hissong's work and the rest of the community for their support of this important cause.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3080) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservative and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Committee Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL, as well as Subcommittee Chairman GIBBS and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work in putting together a bill that all of us can support. There are many good things in the bill and a few things that still need some work.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) is a vitally important bill to my constituents in the 3rd District of California. The levee projects that are authorized will provide life-saving protection for residents

throughout California's flood prone Central Valley, while other construction projects will help to rebuild our crumbling water infrastructure and create jobs. The improvements to revitalize our ports and waterways will bolster business development and ensure that products grown and manufactured in the United States will continue to be exported around the world.

I commend Committee leadership for finding a way to authorize much needed projects without violating the earmark ban. The Natomas Levee Improvement Project will be authorized when this bill becomes law, resulting in increased flood protection for thousands of residents in the Sacramento area. However, there is more we could do. There are approximately 15 projects that have Chief's Reports in the pipeline. They aren't yet completed, but should be in the next several months. I urge an expansion of the authorization to include those projects that will have completed Chief's Reports by the end of the Fiscal Year so that important projects like the one in the Sutter Basin can begin work without wondering when we might get around to passing another WRDA bill.

Much needed language was included to instruct the Corps to revise its regulations regarding levee vegetation. Each part of the country is different and it is vital that the Corps have the flexibility to make determinations based on the individual community and what is needed to provide the most protection. As the bill moves forward in the process, I urge my colleagues to be open to discussing changes to the crediting provisions. Crediting is critical to ensure timely investments in public infrastructure and encourage local communities to start sooner than later to respond to flood threats. One slight change I would like to see would be to move the milestone earlier as to when a non-federal sponsor of a project could begin receiving credit. This does not obligate additional federal funds, nor does it guarantee a non-federal sponsor will receive credit. It merely lets local communities begin to address risks to the public safety as soon as possible.

The Committee has taken strides to reform the way money in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) is spent. Over the next several years, more funding will be funneled back to our ports to ensure those paying into the fund actually receive the dollars back to maintain the infrastructure. Again, more can be done to make sure California gets a fair shake. Most of our ports are donors to the fund, but get little back. The world is only getting smaller and we must do all that we can to ensure American products can get out of our country and into the global market. All of our ports are important to international trade and all should get adequate funding to be the best they can be.

This bill is a milestone in a divided Congress and represents compromise in an era of partisanship. A vote for this bill today is a vote for jobs and for our economy, two things we can all support.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JUSTICE THOMAS KILBRIDE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Thomas Kilbride, who just completed his term as Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court on October 25th. Justice Kilbride received his law degree from Antioch School in Washington, DC, and practiced law for 20 years in the 17th District of Illinois before being elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000. He graciously conducted a ceremonial swearing in for me in Rock Island after I took office in the U.S. House of Representatives in January.

Justice Kilbride made a great impact on public access to the law during his term as Chief Justice. He promoted the increased use of technology in the court, spearheading efforts to put cameras in Illinois courtrooms and allowing electronic filing of many documents for the Supreme Court.

Additionally, Justice Kilbride formed the Illinois Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, as he explained, in order to "make access to justice a high priority for everyone in the legal system." Among other accomplishments, the Commission has broadened the use of standardized legal forms in plain English to make it easier for people to navigate the law without needing to hire an attorney.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Justice Kilbride for his friendship, his commendable work as Chief Justice and his dedication to making the law accessible to everyone in Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLEY GREENE DIXON, JR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and true leader for southern Kentucky, Charley Greene Dixon, Jr., in honor of his selection as the 2013 Knox County Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year.

During his ten-year service as the Knox County Attorney, Charley Greene Dixon witnessed first-hand how the prescription drug abuse epidemic destroyed the lives of countless families in our region. The rapid rate of overdose deaths and repeat drug trafficking offenders funneling through his courtroom stirred a passion within him to do more—to try to save the lives of his neighbors and their children. In response, Charley played a key role in establishing Juvenile, Family and Adult Drug Courts in his hometown, and he remains a steadfast advocate for expanding drug-free

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